

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM



Missouri Department
of Economic Development

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR 2019

The Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) is authorized to allocate up to \$6 million in tax credits per calendar year for projects that target Missouri's at-risk youth. As part of Governor Mike Parson's plan to prioritize workforce development, \$500,000 in tax credits of the \$6 million cap were set aside to promote youth Workforce Training Initiative projects. During the 2019 cycle, YOP allocated a total of \$5,719,198 in tax credits to 31 youth organizations across the state. Contributions to these organizations will fund programming for 28 youth service projects and construction at three facilities. A 2019 project list is enclosed.

Approved 2019 projects have the potential to generate more than \$11.4 million in contributions, leveraging at least \$5.7 million in private sector dollars. Since its inception in 1997, YOP has facilitated more than \$197 million in contributions for projects serving Missouri's most at-risk youth.

YOP primarily partners with non-profit organizations to fund programs for disadvantaged youth, teaming up to leverage private dollars instead of relying solely on public/government funding. These programs help youth break down barriers to a healthy, successful life and realize their potential as productive citizens. YOP acts as an incentive to provide this specialized programming for youth who would otherwise not have such opportunities.

The Youth Opportunities Program has established program outcomes as a means to measure and verify the program's impact throughout the state. Priority is given to projects with outcomes impacting one or more of the following six areas:

- 1. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a high school diploma.**
- 2. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a high school equivalency.**
- 3. Increase the number of at-risk youth that remain in school, improve grades, and/or earn course credit(s) toward a diploma.**
- 4. Reduce the number of at-risk youth committing crimes and violent acts.**
- 5. Increase the number of at-risk youth that have completed an employment skills education and workforce development program.**
- 6. Increase the number of highly capable nonprofits focusing their efforts on awareness, education, treatment, and reduction of opioid misuse to targeted audiences.**

Table 1.1 (next page) shows the amount of tax credits authorized, issued, and redeemed to date from each of the last three calendar year allocations. Taxpayers (donors) have the tax year in which they made a contribution plus five succeeding tax years to redeem their tax credits.

TABLE 1.1: TAX CREDIT UTILIZATION

	2017	2018	2019
Credits Authorized To Date ¹	\$5,936,745	\$6,000,000	\$5,719,198
Credits Issued To Date ²	\$5,295,940	\$4,285,362	\$1,133,064
Credits Redeemed To Date ³	\$4,106,415	\$2,687,243	\$2,500

¹ Credits Authorized = Total Amount Authorized each calendar year minus recaptured, as of 12/31/2019.

² Credits Issued = Total Credits issued as of 12/31/2019 for the projects authorized in each calendar year.

³ Credits Redeemed = Total Credits that have been redeemed by contributing taxpayers as of 12/31/2019 for Contributions made to projects authorized in each year.

Projects approved for YOP during the 2019 calendar year anticipate achieving the outcomes listed below. Totals in each category may vary from year to year due to the types and project period length of projects funded. Some numbers may include duplication if the youth participate in the program more than one year or if they achieve more than one outcome.

TABLE 1.2: EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH

Earning a High School Diploma or Equivalency	138
Earning School Credits, Improving Academically, or Increasing GPA	3,265
Not Committing Crimes or Completing Violence Prevention Courses	9,079
Abstaining from Drug and Alcohol Use; Completing Prevention Programs	4,204
Completing Life Skills Training; Financial Literacy; Participating in Mentoring	6,729
Learning Employment Skills and/or Placed in a Job or Internship	525
Increasing Knowledge in Science, Math, Technology, or Business	1,143
# Achieving Other Outcomes (Such as: counseling, crisis intervention and emergency shelter, post-secondary knowledge and preparation, case management, etc.)	10,332

As shown by the outcome data on the previous page, numerous organizations, using YOP as a tool, are implementing projects to help at-risk youth become productive adults. Good Samaritan Boys Ranch and Nurses for Newborns are two such organizations successfully using YOP tax credits to cultivate new donors, increase reach and capacity, and contribute in a very real way to meet the needs of disadvantaged youth. The following summaries demonstrate the ways in which these agencies are making positive, lasting differences in the lives of Missouri's most at-risk youth.

GOOD SAMARITAN BOYS RANCH

Brighton, Mo

Who They Are

The Good Samaritan Boys Ranch, founded in 1959, provides a safe and caring home for youth who have been abused and/or neglected youth. The Ranch offers: group and transitional housing, including four units for children with serious emotional and behavioral needs; an on-grounds school; therapeutic, emotional and academic supports; and life and job skills training. Programs are designed to help youth become responsible, productive young adults, ending the cycle of unhealthy behaviors and generational child abuse.

Who They Serve

As part of this YOP project, Good Samaritan Boys Ranch serves youth ages 16-21 years, who are wards of the state and aging out of foster care. These youth, of whom fifty percent are performing below grade level or have dropped out of school and have little or no family or support system in place, must learn to live independently when state assistance ends at age 21.

What They Do

Good Samaritan Boys Ranch has completed construction of a 5,262 square foot transitional living facility in Springfield. The new facility provides transitional apartments with varying degrees of structure and support. The transitional apartments serve as a “next step” toward independence after life in a group home, providing youth a stable and secure environment to continue to learn and apply independent living skills while experiencing the freedom and responsibility of their own community-based apartment.



BEN'S STORY

Ben was sent to Good Samaritan Boys Ranch in 2017 as a quiet and disconnected young man, new to the foster care system, and with a lot of trust issues. His first placement was in the Footsteps Transitional Living program. Ben was able to maintain very good grades in high school, but didn't enjoy school and struggled to connect with peers and navigate the social aspects of school. Ben also demonstrated a lot of anxiety about getting a job.

At Good Samaritan, Ben participated in employment classes and groups, watched demonstrations, and assisted staff in completing job-related tasks. The structure of having to complete tasks, and engage with staff and other residents, helped him to grow tremendously. He also joined a group playing Dungeons and Dragons, where staff were able to test and strengthen his social skills. Last summer Ben got a job at a local movie theater and again began to show more potential. Although it isn't his ideal job, he has kept it for over six months. Ben is saving money and on track to graduate high school this year.

With graduation, Ben will need to learn and practice greater independence, even though he often is very anxious in new situations. Moving into Good Samaritan's transitional apartments provides an excellent opportunity for him to experience more independence while having the support of staff and resources close by. Ben is excited to be the first resident in the new apartment building and for the next chapter in his life.

NURSES FOR NEWBORNS

St. Louis, Mo

Who They Are

Founded nearly 30 years ago, Nurses for Newborns (NFN) provides a safety net for families most at-risk in order to prevent infant mortality and child abuse and neglect by providing in-home nursing visits to at risk mothers and babies. Using a strengths-based approach, visits promote mental and physical health, education, and positive parenting skills, and connect women with resources to lead productive, healthy lives. Nurses for Newborns provides services to families in 17 eastern Missouri counties, free of charge, for up to two years. The organization has been recognized for innovation and service throughout its history, including recognition as the federal Administration for Health Care Quality and Research as a model of innovative practice since 2007.


Who They Serve

Through services provided by their YOP project, NFN reaches young, pregnant women and infants in the St. Louis area who are at high risk for abuse, neglect, infant mortality, and poor infant development. The young mothers served often have mental health issues, have experienced domestic violence, and have difficulty accessing health care. Approximately 92% of clients live below the federal poverty level and face an overall average of six risk factors. Additionally, a growing number of young women served, 24% in 2018, are misusing drugs and alcohol at entry into the home-visitation program.

What They Do

For these young parents, opportunities for employment and education are significantly reduced, social isolation frequently increases, and economic pressures intensify the risks for child abuse or neglect, depression, substance abuse, and even suicide. Upon enrollment in NFN's nurse home visiting program, clients receive an assessment and screening addressing physical and emotional condition, support network, medical history and current needs, and access to transportation. A plan and goals are created for each mother-to-be, a visit schedule is established, and referrals are made to address additional needs. For up to two years, mothers receive in-home visits consisting of parenting education, continuing assessments and referrals, and mentoring and life coaching that encourages continuing education and employment.

With the support of YOP tax credits, Nurses for Newborns will achieve the following outcomes over a three-year project period:

- **3,234 of 3,300 at-risk infants will not have a report of child abuse.**
 - **175 of 250 high risk teen parents will return to school within one year after giving birth.**
 - **237 of 250 high risk teen mothers will not have a second pregnancy during the time they are in NFN services.**
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NAOMI'S STORY

When the NFN nurse first visited Naomi, she was pregnant and already caring for a 4-year-old child on her own. The father of the child was in prison and had been abusive. Naomi had many financial and material needs, unsafe housing, was fearful of others, and had no family and virtually no friends to support her emotionally or in any other way.

The home-visiting nurse assessed all of the physical and emotional needs of the young mother and her children, and over the course of frequent visits addressed those needs. She provided ongoing support and encouraged Naomi to become independent from her abusive spouse, helped her identify and move into a properly maintained home in a welcoming neighborhood, and provided the education needed to deliver a healthy baby.

Today, Naomi works in a position that is supporting her family and has friends in the neighborhood who support and appreciate her. While her NFN nurse will continue to monitor periodically for a little while longer, Naomi and her young children have transitioned from a life of fear and poverty to become resilient, confident, and healthy.

Organization Name	Authorized Amount
National Council On Alcoholism And Drug Abuse (NCADA)	\$190,000
A Million Stars (DBA College Bound)	\$200,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri	\$199,999
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri	\$200,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of The Ozarks	\$100,000
Boys & Girls Club of Jefferson City (FKA of the Capital City)	\$198,574
Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Charles County	\$168,685
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Columbia Area	\$200,000
Boys And Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City	\$173,750
Covenant House Missouri	\$162,942
Coyote Hill Christian Children's Home	\$180,000
Epworth Children & Family Services	\$200,000
Flance Management, Inc.	\$150,000
Gene Slay's Girls & Boys Club of St. Louis, Inc.	\$189,550
German St. Vincent Orphan Association	\$200,000
Girls On the Run of St. Louis	\$107,937
Herbert Hoover Boys And Girls Club of St. Louis	\$200,000
Kingdom House (DBA LifeWise Stl)	\$200,000
Lutheran Family & Children's Services of Missouri	\$200,000
Mission: St. Louis	\$137,240
Nurses For Newborns Foundation	\$195,000
Operation Breakthrough, Inc.	\$200,000
Our Little Haven	\$187,500
Saint Louis Counseling, Inc. (FKA Catholic Family Services)	\$200,000
Salem R-80 School District	\$219,198
St. Francis Community Services (Catholic Charities Community Services)	\$200,000
St. Louis Arc	\$200,000
St. Louis Children's Hospital	\$200,000
St. Louis Crisis Nursery	\$200,000
Unleashing Potential (FKA Board For Inner City Mission)	\$200,000
Youth In Need	\$158,823

